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THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF CENTRAL AMERICA

D. G. MUNRO. **The Five Republics of Central America: Their Political and Economic Development and Their Relations with the United States.** With introductory note by J. B. Clark. xvi and 332 pp.; map, bibliogr., index. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Division of Economics and History, New York, 1918. 10 x 6½ inches.

With their settlements along the salubrious western highlands, thus facing the almost shipless South Sea, and barred from contact with European civilization by the monopolistic trade laws of Spain as well as by the untraveled, low, malarial forests of the eastern plains, the Central American countries received little stimulus to development from the outside world until long after independence. They are rich in minerals; they present great opportunities in tropical agriculture; they contain vast grazing lands. Within recent years an awakening has come. Inter-oceanic railways, projected water routes, the construction of the canal with the prospect of great markets at Panama, and, more recently still, the growth of an enormous trade in fruit along the Gulf coast, have given new life to these lands.

The purpose of the present volume is to contribute toward a fuller understanding on the part of the American people of the present economic and political conditions prevailing in these near-by republics. The author spent several months, not only in the large centers of population where white influence is strongest, but also in outlying sections of the country, visiting provincial towns and rural districts where aboriginal and mixed-race ideas and customs dominate, thus gaining an insight into the actual operation of the social, political, industrial, and economic systems.

Recognizing that the greatest obstacle to continuous progress is the lack of stable democratic institutions, the author ascribes this in part to *localismo* (which may be interpreted as the influence of a geographical medium which has tended to keep the countries divided into isolated sections), in part to their remoteness from the world's roadways, as also in a measure to the lack of racial homogeneity. He believes foreign interference in their domestic affairs, either to suppress revolutions or to support the military chieftain who happens to be in control, will never accomplish the ultimate object sought. The greatest possible help that we can give our Central American neighbors, in his opinion, is helping them to solve their social and educational problems that they themselves may overcome the natural obstacles to self-government.

THE PRIMITIVE CIVILIZATIONS OF PERU

CARLOS WIESSE. **Las civilizaciones primitivas del Perú.** 291 pp. Universidad Mayor de San Marcos, Tipografía "El Lucero," Lima, 1913. \$1.00. 8½ x 5½ inches.

Although nearly seven years old this work is not so well known in North America as it deserves to be. Yet it is of great value, on the whole, to the student and to the teacher of American anthropology. In essence, it is at once a summary and an elaboration of the system of culture sequence founded by Uhle.

In his "Parte Preliminar" Dr. Wiese discusses the question of geologic man in America. He accepts the findings of Hrdlička rather than those of Ameghino. In his discussion of the various phases of culture in America the terminology is unfortunate. Much is said of "paleolithic" and "neolithic" periods and cultures. To most North American anthropologists this classification will be distasteful because of the chronological element involved, an element quite out of place when attached to such cultures as those of the cliff dwellers, the mound builders, and the Changos. Some of the "paleolithic" cultures are extinct; others still exist. Another set of terms would have been better, and the classification of cultures itself is not above criticism, for the people of the shell heaps and the mound builders certainly do not belong in the same cultural category. Then, too, in his account of the historical development of the people in Mexico and Central America, Dr. Wiese shows himself lamentably out of touch with modern research. On page 36 he says: "It is established that in the tenth century the Toltecs of the kingdom of Tula . . . marched to the east and then to the southeast, founding the cities of Palenque and Tixal (*sic*), then going north to the peninsula of Yucatán where the cities of Kabah, Uxmal, Chichen-Itza, Aké, Mayapan, and Izamal flourished." One is led to suspect that Dr. Wiese is acquainted only by hearsay with the works of Brinton, Brasseur de Bourbourg, Bowditch, Spinden, and Morley.

From this point onward, however, the work is excellent, even though one may not wholly agree with some of it. The style and arrangement are above reproach. An admirable summary of Uhle's findings as to the earlier phases of the cultures of Chimu and Nasca is given. It is a pity that Uhle's dictum to the effect that the Nasca culture is the older should have been accepted so unquestioningly, but this is more than made up for by the very

able description (pp. 66-72) of the still earlier and more primitive culture of the first coast dwellers. As the book was written before Spinden had published anything on the Archaic Type, there is no hint of the real significance of these very early people. Dr. Wiese makes the important suggestion that there was not only contact but strife between the earliest folk and the more advanced Chimu and Nasca successors, a suggestion vividly supported by the vase paintings of the Chimu, in which battle scenes between well-armed and unarmed warriors are frequent.

Further, Dr. Wiese gives a succinct and valuable outline of the chief features and problems of the Tiahuanaco culture. The chronological aspect of the discussion merits special commendation for its reasonableness; especially important in this connection is what Dr. Wiese says (pp. 93, 94) of Llojepaya, a group of ruins on the present margin of Lake Titicaca. These ruins are in the same style as those of Tiahuanaco, and they prove that the Lake did not reach to Tiahuanaco at the time the two sites were occupied. This is an effective rebuttal of Posnansky's pretensions that Tiahuanaco was a port. A full, perhaps unnecessarily full, discussion of the long-since discredited conjectures of Angrand as to the possible Toltec origin of the builders of Tiahuanaco is given and a very full and valuable account of the god Huiracocha (pp. 104-121). This is followed by a helpful and stimulating description (pp. 121-149) of conditions on the coast and in the highlands in the times immediately preceding the Inca period.

Dr. Wiese begins his account of the Inca period with an exposition of the sanest theories concerning the origin of the Incas. Following in the footsteps of Uhle, he concludes that the Incas were neither more nor less than a tribe who lived near Cuzco, who were descended from former subjects of the old Tiahuanaco empire and who gradually built up a new empire for themselves. Equally satisfactory and sound is the date chronology. There is an important account of the history of the growth of the Inca power. The division of the Inca period into a "feudal" and a "unified" epoch is suggestive, original, and convenient. The further division into "dynasties" may seem to some unnecessary and unwarranted. Following this is a wholly admirable summary of the component parts of the Inca dominion, enriched with many apt quotations from old chroniclers. Then, with the work of Saavedra, Belaunde, Cunow, and Uhle for a basis, Dr. Wiese gives a reconstruction of the social organization of the Inca dominion. The book is brought to a close by an account of the physical and intellectual aspects of the Inca culture which, though brief, is exceedingly comprehensive and valuable.

With the exception of a marked lack of care in the spelling of foreign proper names, the book is well documented, authorities in plenty being quoted. It is a pity that such errors as "Bourborug" for Bourbourg (p. 131), "Prescot" for Prescott (p. 161), and "Wilson" for Winsor (p. 164) should be allowed to creep into bibliographical references otherwise so excellent. Despite the faults which have been noted, one may say without hesitation that the book should stand beside Beuchat, Joyce, and Markham on the anthropologist's work table. It is the best summary of Andean anthropology to be found.

PHILIP AINSWORTH MEANS

METEOROLOGY AND OCEANOGRAPHY OF THE ATLANTIC

Atlantischen Oceaen, Oceanographische en meteorologische waarnemingen in den, December, Januari, Februari, 1870-1914. With title in French: *Observations océanographiques et météorologiques dans l'Océan Atlantique, Décembre, Janvier, Février, 1870-1914.* 24 maps, with accompanying text. *Kon. Nederl. Meteorol. Inst. [Publ.] No. 110.* Seijffardt's Boekhandel, Amsterdam, [1918.] fl. 7.50. 20 x 18 inches.

There is a popular impression among teachers and students of meteorology that, the days of the sailing ship having largely passed, there is comparatively little interest or importance in the preparation and study of detailed charts and discussions of the meteorological conditions over the great ocean areas of the world. This is a highly mistaken point of view. While it is true that the fast passenger steamship is far less dependent upon weather conditions than is the sailing vessel, yet even the "ocean grayhound" has to meet and reckon with storms and ice and fog and is helped or hindered by the movements of ocean currents. Furthermore, the bulk of the world's commerce is carried on the slow-going "tramp" steamer, where high speed is not sought, and where the success of the "tramp" as a paying proposition is largely dependent upon making use of every favorable weather condition and avoiding, as far as possible, adverse winds, currents, and other obstacles to navigation such as fogs and ice. Thus, although the picturesque sailing ship is truly becoming more and more of a rarity, ocean navigation needs today, as it always has needed, the best possible information which can be supplied regarding the meteorology of the "seven seas."